

# PEST ALERT

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry  
Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of Agriculture

## Another Neotropical Longhorn Beetle (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) Apparently New to the Mainland of Florida

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**INTRODUCTION:** *Oxymerus aculeatus lebasi* Dupont, a distinctive yellow and black longhorn beetle, has been collected twice in Miami-Dade County in recent years, suggesting that it is established in extreme South Florida.

**IDENTIFICATION:** This is a medium-sized (10-17mm), yellow and black beetle (Fig. 1). The combination of its somewhat fusiform body shape, truncate elytral apices with a strong external spine, and color pattern is unique in the Florida fauna and makes it readily recognizable.

**BIOLOGY:** Little is known about the biology of this species. Other members of the tribe are reported to bore in dead, dry branches as larvae. The adults are active during the day.

**DISTRIBUTION:** *Oxymerus aculeatus lebasi* has been recorded from Mexico south to Brazil, and from several islands in the Caribbean (Huedepohl 1979). It has not been recorded previously from the United States. The first Florida specimen was collected by Lynda Davis on 14-XI-2003 sitting on *Callophylum* sp. (Guttiferae) in a Hialeah nursery in Miami-Dade County. The second was collected by Eduardo Mendoza on 17-XI-2006 in the far northwestern part of Miami-Dade County sitting on ragweed, (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L. (Compositae)).

### REFERENCES:

**Huedepohl, K.-E. 1979.** Revision der Gattung *Oxymerus* Serville (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Cerambycinae, Trachyderini). *Entomologische Arbeiten aus dem Museum G. Frey*, 28: 9-74. Photograph by M.C. Thomas, FDACS/DPI



Fig. 1. *Oxymerus aculeatus lebasi*, male.